PATHOLOGICAL.

Medullary Lesions in a Case of Acute Ascending Paralysis.

Ballet and Dutil reported at the Sociétè Medicale des Hopitaux, on the 15th of December, 1895, a case of polyneuritis of ordinary character, in which lesions in the cord were shown by three methods; first, by Nissl's plan, second by eosin and hemotoxylin, and third by picro-carmine. By Nissl's method the cells of the anterior cornua were found to have lost their prolongations, to show sometimes a partial swelling of the protoplasm, and sometimes to have lost their granular character. With the eosin and hemotoxylin it was noted that the nucleus was pushed to one side in some cases, and in others was star-shaped. No satisfactory results were derived from the picro-carmine stainings. M. Ballet thought that it was impossible to decide whether the primary alteration was in the cord or in the nerve, but was of opinion that, in spite of Waller's law, there were many modern observations proving the possibility of lesions of the cord consecutive to neural changes. There is nothiug in the cellular modifications which would allow one to say whether the alterations were primary or secondary. MITCHELL.

Hysterical Meningitis.

Le Med. Mod., 18th December, 1895, M. Huchard reports a case of hysterical meningitis. The patient, a syphilitic, had convergent strabismus, and later complete blindness, fever and delirium. At the apex of the right lung there was a slight loss of resonance. The diagnosis of hysteria was considered established by characteristic hysterical attacks, and M. Huchard also thought that it was common to find a similar dullness over portions of the lung in hysterical patients, which he believed to be due to contraction of the muscles. It is often mobile, and provoked by the slightest touch, even of the finger in percussing. It is important to distinguish, as it might create a suspicion of a pulmonary lesion of a tubercular character, and lead to a false diagnosis of tubercular meningitis, when it occurs with such a combination of symptoms as was present in this case. MITCHELL.

Abnormal Development of the Nervous System as a Stigma Sign of Degeneration.

By Prof. H. M. Popow (*Newrologiczeski Wiestnik*, Vol. III. No. 3.)

The report concerns the case of a man, aged forty-two, who at the time of his admittance to the hospital of Karan, complained of pain in the lower extremities, accompanied by disturbances of gait. These symptoms were found to be due to multiple neuromata and fibromata, which were distributed over the whole body. They were congenital and the mother had been affected in the same manner. In the patient these tumors were stationary and caused no symptoms except in the last years, when they began to grow much, and to cause many sensory and motor symptoms. Operations performed brought relief, but it was only temporary ; the condition grew gradually worse, and the patient died from extreme exhaustion.

The autopsy revealed normal development of the brain and spinal cord, but the former showed extraordinary size ; after hardening in 2 per cent. bichromate of potassium solution it weighed 2,040 grammes, while a normal brain, treated in the same manner, weighed 1,570 grammes. Optic nerves and all peripheral nerves were thickened in a striking degree ; in many places the thickening was regular, so as to appear only as an increase in calibre, in other places the thickenings were spindleshaped. In the peripheral nerves the thickening proved to be due to a hypertrophy of the connective tissue, while the nerve fibres showed atrophy. The optic nerves were examined with special care. They measured 9, 5 mm. on the cross-section in one direction ; 8, 5 mm. in the other diameter (normal measures, 5 mm.+4 mm.). The chiasma presented a width (in antero-posterior direction) of 18 mm. Histologically, the connective tissue of the optic nerves was strongly developed, but only in such degree as could appear normal in view of the general thickening. The striking feature was the enormous thickness of the myelin sheaths of the individual fibres, many of which reached the thickness of 25 micromilimeters, while the highest diameter found for nerve fibres of a normal optic nerve was 7, 5 micromilimeters. Such fibres, with thickened sheaths, were rather sporadic in some of the cross-sections, on others they were the predominating feature.

The brain showed normal configuration, its extreme size was due to the extraordinary development of the medullary sheaths of the nerve fibres, which was particularly striking where they were arranged in a net work, the latter presenting a massive appearance. In the cerebral cortex the first layer of fibres was so extremely developed that it could hardly be differentiated from the tangential layer ; yet the relative number of fibres of the first layer as compared with that of the tangential layer was not increased. There was a great richness of fibres in the first layer as compared with that of normal brains.

Examination of the spinal cord showed also thickening of the medullary sheaths as the characteristic feature. It showed itself in the massive development of the fibre network in the gray substance, chiefly in the anterior horns.

Aside from these changes of medullated nerve fibres, cell changes were found both in the spinal cord and cerebral cortex; pigmentations around the nuclei, loss of processes, etc., besides vascular alterations. The cell changes bear a degenerative character, and were probably due to a recent process, causing the disturbances of nutrition, to which the patient succumbed. The changes of the nerve fibres were evidently due to abnormalaties of development. As the multiple neuromata and fibromata with which the patient was affected are usually found in connection with degenerative conditions as idiocy, cretinism, etc., it is safe to consider the changes found in the central nervous system of the case reported, as signs of degeneracy. Unfortunately, no proper history could be obtained, accordingly no record exists as to whether the abnormal development of the medullary fibres of the central nervous system had been accompanied by any disturbances of their functions, whether mental anomolies were present, etc.

ONUF.

Quelques Observations sur L'Anatomie de la Moelle Allonge, du Pont, et des Pedoncles Cerebraux. Resume de l'Auteur.

By A. Bettoni (Archiv. *Italiennes de Biologie*, Vol. XXIII. 3, 1895. p. 375.)

The writer records a series of observations upon the anatomy of the medulla, pons and cerebellar peduncles following the destruction of large parts of the cerebellum.

In the medulla, he found on the same side as the lesion. Atrophy of the external nuclei of the "funiculus cuneiformis" and of the gray masses known as the nuclei of the lateral columns. Atrophy of the restiform body. Disappearance of several groups of the "arciform" fibres. Disappearance of the cerebellar olivary fibres. Atrophy of the Deiter nucleus.

On the side opposite the lesion. Disappearance of the bulbar olivary bodies.

In the region of the pons. Sclerosis of the right half of the pons. Evident reduction of the gray substance of the pons. Thinning of the left pyramidal tracts. Disappearance of the right anterior cerebellar peduncle.

In the peduncular region, hemi-extirpation of the cerebellum produced disappearance of the right anterior cerebellar peduncle with the substitution of sclerotic tissue.

Notable reduction of the gray substance of the nucleus "rouge" of Stilling of the left side.

Notable reduction of the "locus niger" of Sömmering, equally of the left side.

JELLIFFE.

"The Microbic Nature of Nervous and Mental Diseases.

In the *Gaceta Médica Catalana*, of Barcelona, Jan. 15, 1896, appears a list of diseases of the nervous system, compiled by Dr. Galceran, whose microbic origin has been defi-